

TO: Health Committee Reviewing Senate Bill 885 of 2014

FROM: Joseph A. Moore, paramedic of Beaver Island EMS

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SUBJECT: Senate Bill 885 of 2014

The basic and most important part of this legislation is the section that creates an opportunity for local medical control authorities to determine the needs of their geographically rural areas in the provision of education, training, and treatments of the patients in this geographical area.

Several examples of the special studies that have helped Beaver Island in the provision of life-saving care included the following:

1. Special study that allowed a BLS service the education, training, and treatments of severe allergic reactions by allowing the now nationally accepted treatment including epi-pens.
2. Special study that allowed EMT-Specialists to provide life-saving care to diabetic patients by educating, training, and protocols for using D-50 to mitigate hypoglycemia.
3. Special study to allow BLS service the education, training, and treatment modality of albuterol nebulizer treatment of asthma, and other respiratory diseases.
4. Special study that allows Basic EMTs the education, training, and treatment modality of aspirin and nitroglycerin to patient's with signs and symptoms of a heart attack.
5. Special study that allowed the education, training, and treatment modality of an automatic external defibrillation of cardiac arrest patients.

These special studies have not only saved lives in the rural areas of this state, but also improved the outcomes and the quality of life for rural residents who have had these conditions outside of an area served by Advanced Life Support.

Why wouldn't the state want to continue to improve the prehospital care of the rural residents of this state? Why wouldn't education, training and protocols be developed and written to allow these improvements?

Beaver Island can be the most rural area in the state when weather isolates the island from any transport of an emergency patient to the mainland. Several people's lives have been saved and others have had the quality of their lives improved due to the above mentioned special studies within the Charlevoix County Medical Control Authority region, some even in this very small example of rural population.

As a twenty-seven year EMS provider in this small-populated, weather-isolated, most rural area, this Senate Bill 885 will continue to allow the upgraded care in rural areas with the education, training, and protocols that are necessary to help save lives and improve the quality of rural residents' lives.